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TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 2200.

The Shah of Persia Buys Liberty Bonds.

The Shah of Persia has bought his Liberty bonds. Why any American citizen who can rake or scrape together the price of a bond be without that unquestioned certificate of patriotism to-night?

To Americans Persia has long had a sentimental interest. They have shown their sympathy in the struggle of its people to restore to their country its ancient and departed glories and to preserve it from extinction as a nation. At one time we sent to Persia a young American to straighten out the tangle in which the affairs of the state had become involved. It was not a task for a Westerner and he gave it up. But the Persians have forgotten neither him nor his efforts, and there has ever since been a feeling, bred perhaps of Oriental fatalism, that he would return and that America would help them out of the depths.

Perhaps this had something to do with the order that the Shah of Persia sent to Washington for \$100,000 of Liberty bonds. Russia has apparently passed away as an aggressor and Great Britain has shown a willingness to arbitrate her part of the Anglo-Russian agreement. But more dreaded enemies have appeared; the Germans have come to the northern border seeking an open way to India and the Persian Gulf region, the Turks are pouring over the western frontier demanding Persian territory they have long coveted. And they covet American territory and power in this hemisphere just as they covet territory and power in Persia.

The Shah knows the meaning of Kultur; he has had experience with both Teuton and Turkish brands. He knows that its introduction would end every dream of Persian independence, reduce Persia to vassalage or force its extinction as a separate state. Nothing could show more than this act of his faith in the promise of the Allies to protect weak, defenceless small countries. The Allies' cause is his and Persia's cause.

ARMED MIRZA is poorer than his predecessors. The peacock throne has lost many of its diamonds and emeralds, the treasury of imperial jewels has been depleted, royal palaces have fallen into decay, and the collection of taxes has been almost impossible.

No one asked the Shah for his subscription. He might have been a slacker. But he knew the investment in Liberty bonds was the best that he could make for himself and his country. He expressed this as every loyal American does by buying.

How Long Will This Be Tolerated?

The subjoined despatch from Detroit, Mich., was printed in THE SUN yesterday:

"Plots to destroy two of Detroit's largest munition plants have been foiled and six men interned for the duration of the war for the part they played in the unsuccessful attempt.

"Four Austrians employed at the American Car and Foundry Company's works made the statement that 'Everybody who is helping to make this war stuff should be killed.'

"The quartet was put out of the works and soon obtained employment at the Ford factory. Following the remarks made by the four men they were shadowed by men of the military intelligence department, who found a quantity of dynamite they asserted was intended for use in blowing up the Ford factory. The men were arrested immediately. One confessed and all were sent at once to internment camps."

If the facts in this case are accurately given in this despatch, we are at a loss to understand why these plotters should be interned.

In any other belligerent country they would certainly be sent to prison for long terms.

Germany would execute, by sword, noose, or rifle, any American who attempted to blow up a factory.

But in this country these men are interned for the duration of the war in a comfortable camp in which they are to be well housed, well fed and well protected against disease and overwork.

At the end of the war they will be

released from custody, and if they choose they may apply for United States citizenship unhandicapped by any judicial record of their criminal acts.

This treatment of hostile agents is repugnant to justice, injurious to the national morale, and can only irritate the people of this country and impair their confidence in the adequacy of the Government to deal with enemies.

We can conceive of no excuse for leniency to such creatures as the Austrians caught red handed in Detroit endeavoring to hamper our war machine and murder our loyal citizens; and the unwholesome effect of such weakness is manifested in the constantly increasing disposition to question the competency of the authorities who permit it to exist.

The Australians.

A well travelled lot, many of these Aussies who are about the streets of New York. They went at first from Australia and New Zealand to Egypt by way of the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. They went through the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean to that mixture of blunder and bravery the Gallipoli campaign. Those who were wounded and lived—and who at Gallipoli wasn't wounded?—returned home to get well. Here they are again, pausing in their journey to the western front by a route that has included the Pacific, the Panama Canal, the Gulf and the Atlantic. They have seen all but the polar seas, and we are glad to see them and to hear their "Coo-oo-o-o."

It is too bad that America has no national cry to answer this one that the Australian took from the bushman.

What a strong lot of men they are; strong of face as well as in the bodies that strain the brown woollen uniforms! Strong men in spirit too, going back across two oceans to avenge their dead and keep democracy alive. They are democratic to the core. They are men of a Commonwealth that has a Constitution modelled after our own. Theirs is a continent with its own particular life and literature. They are part of an empire, but its supporters rather than its servants. To them Australia is not merely the greatest of islands, but the greatest of States. That is why they are eager to get into the fight again.

Preparing the Way.

There can be only one explanation of Germany's reiteration of the lie that charges American military aviators with missing the Red Cross. The Kaiser is preparing a justification for attacks on our hospital service in the field and afloat. Teutonic thoroughness is once more to the fore. As other criminals arrange an alibi before they begin operations, the Prussian murderers are building up a case to excuse their barbarism.

What good will it do the Germans?

They cannot hope to intimidate the American people or the American Government. We know all about their lawlessness, their brutality, their treachery before we rose to defend ourselves. If frightfulness could have deterred us from our duty we should never have undertaken, as we did a year ago, to perform it. On April 6, 1917, we knew as well as we know now that the German military command would hesitate at nothing.

Actually the Germans only serve notice on us that we shall be treated by them as their other honorable enemies are: that neither law nor humane feeling will dull the edge of their barbarism; and the answer we make to their threats is conveyed by our increasing armies on the battle front, witnesses to our determination to rid the world of the menace Prussia has so long held over it.

Germany Takes Over Ukraine.

With the capture of Sebastopol Germany holds the entire north coast of the Black Sea. Fortified by the possession of this region, so important and vital to the new Ukrainian State, the Germans have abandoned all pretensions to the establishment of a free and independent Ukraine. Any Ukrainian who believed in their intentions, announced with much Peckinham suavity at the Brest-Litovsk peace conference, has had his faith shattered by the arrest of Ukrainian officials, the seizure of Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, and the establishment of German military rule.

The Germans adroitly passed over the question of the boundaries of the new State at the peace conference, but they left the implication that they should include all southern Russia to the Caucasus region. They had scarcely secured the signatures to the treaty and sent an army into Ukraine, ostensibly against the Rumanians, than they captured Odessa. When the army under General von Eichhorn had reached central Ukraine and was encamped at the gates of Kiev another army which had been operating along the Black Sea littoral marched into and occupied Sebastopol. The result is that the entire Black Sea coast is now in possession of Germany and her allies.

Her hold upon the two ports of Odessa and Sebastopol make it impossible for Ukraine to export any of its grain or other products over the sea except under German direction and control. All Ukrainian business and commerce is thus at the mercy of Berlin.

The reason assigned for the high handed methods at Kiev are so genuinely Prussian as to be unquestioned. "The Government had proved too weak to maintain law and order," says the official Berlin statement. What Berlin had least desired at Kiev was a strong Government. In building up a Ministry and a Rada

it had carefully excluded Ukrainians with patriotism or ability, and had chosen men who it believed would be subservient to its demands.

Where this Government failed was in delivering over to Germany all the cereal products of the country. The Germans demanded 85 per cent. of the wheat in Ukraine at their own price. The peasant farmers found in this insistence an exaction that had never been made upon them even by the autocratic rule of Russia. They refused to give up their grain. Revolts against the German military rule and armed conflicts between the troops and the peasants were of daily occurrence. The stores promised with the Ukraine occupation were not forthcoming, and the failure of this supply is the reason of the great shortage of food in Austria and the increasing discontent among the Austrian people. There is little surprise that the Berlin statement adds, "Our efforts to restore order met with insufficient support from the Government, which, moreover, took no measures regarding the spring sowing to meet its treaty obligations."

This explains in Berlin's own words why Germany established a separate Ukrainian State. It was not to bring liberty or freedom to the people, but to create a vassal State that would furnish her with a grain supply for her army and incidentally for her civil population. Because the Ukrainians refused to submit to these conditions they are to be forced into slavery by Prussian militarism.

The Departure of Conscript Scott.

Shenandoah, in Pennsylvania, is a fair sized town, but only one of its citizens was called in the latest group of the draft. To this conscript, Mr. Henry Scott, a banquet was given by the citizens of Shenandoah and District Attorney DANIEL J. FERGUSON spoke as follows:

"Old boy, you are done heaving coal for a while. You are going away to be a soldier and the time to say good-bye is near at hand. When you get over there shoot straight. Use well your ammunition. Of course there are times when a country, even a great country like ours, runs out of ammunition. In such exigencies it will be your duty not only to carry in your hip pocket a razor but to flash it effectively. Do your best, Henry, at all stages for your Uncle SAMMY."

The distinguished draftee pulled down the white waistcoat that he wore beneath his Tuxedo—the war has broadened men's fashions—and replied:

"Mr. FERGUSON, I always carry a razor on my person and I'm not particular which side of the individual I use it on, front or back. I am not a speech maker, but I would certainly be proud and happy to have my folks from old Virginia see me here to-night. The time has come to say 'good-bye' and I'm going away to be a soldier. Good night, all."

Escorted by the Lithuanian Brass Band, Mr. Scott marched to the station the following morning and boarding a Pullman started for Camp Lee, Virginia. The local papers had a column about it.

If you read some time that the Prussian Guard is routed by a large black American soldier with a razor, that will be Private Henry Scott, formerly driver for O'Hara Brothers, coal, of Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, a democratic town.

Books for the Fighters.

It is a tribute to the intelligence of generous New York that the books given by the people to be distributed among the soldiers are, taken on the whole, wise selections, made at the sacrifice of the donor. A leaflet of the Public Library says:

"The average quality and condition of the books received was astonishingly good. The exhortation to 'rummage' was in very few cases interpreted as a call to clean out the attic and store-rooms of all their accumulations of musty and lifeless printed matter. On the contrary, most of the books seemed to have come from places of honor on the book shelves of their former owners. Many single works or complete sets in fine bindings and handsome editions were themselves plain evidence that they had been given by persons who knew and loved books, and perhaps had wished their gifts to mean some personal sacrifice."

It is easy to imagine that some of the generous persons who sent whole sets of popular authors recompensed themselves by buying, to fill the gap in their shelves, some other and long coveted edition of the same books. Others, unwilling to part with familiar and perhaps dog eared friends, made good by buying new volumes of the same works or by contributing money for that purpose. Colonel ROOSEVELT, for instance, sent a check for a hundred copies of "Our Mutual Friend," "Guy Rannering" and "The Antiquary." We do not know that he kept his own volumes of these classics, but nobody would blame him if he did.

Popular fiction was what the contributors gave most of; and that is just what the soldiers want. As the library leaflet says, "there could be no possible danger of getting too many copies of the works of CONAN DOYLE, O. HENRY, BOOTH TARKINGTON and other authors justly popular with men." They will also have enough of HENRY JAMES and GEORGE MEREDITH, and plenty of DICKENS, SCOTT, THACKERAY, and of SHAKESPEARE and the other poets.

Of course the amiable idiot did his bit in the book drive. He—or she—tried to see to it that no member of the Sixty-ninth went without "The Secrets of My Beauty," by LINA CALVALIERI, or RUSKIN'S "Letters to

Young Girls." A woman who had several hundred copies of her grandfather's sermons flung them generously into the hopper. Some one, perhaps a German, contributed a complete file of the *Undertaker's Review*. The censors picked out for burning several well preserved guides to cemeteries, some annual reports of eye and ear hospitals, and various manuals of needlework and treatises on the care of infants. "The Postal and Telegraph Code of the Argentine Republic" was ready to go abroad. A whole set of the *Elise books*, designed for the edification of PRUSSIAN'S mule skinner, will never meet them.

There is cargo space for 100,000 books a month. When you pick out a book to send to the soldier, choose one that you would like if you were a live, clean youth in the twenties. Don't send a book just because you want to get rid of it; it would be like sending Confederate money to the Red Cross. As for that fine old edition of "The Anatomy of Melancholy" which you treasure, keep it. Send "Ruggles" instead.

A Problem of the Has Been.

The wife of a defeated pugilist, the sporting news relates, deserted him because she "had no use for a has been." A "has been," it is learned from competent authority, is not an economic nor a social relation of the "four flusher," inasmuch as the former may have accomplished much on merit, the latter nothing.

"That makes the problem. Is a wife who may be clearly justified in separating her career from an undulating alliance with one of no accomplishments warranted in taking the same severe measure after benefiting in prosperity, pride, in the sunny comforts of social distinction through the success of a mate, though he suffer only temporary declension. It may be, from prestige or profit? Is there a privilege in Joan's new liberty of demanding continuous performance of victory from Darby at the penalty of a separate peace?"

Some consideration, in an old-fashioned way of thinking, seems to be due to benefits derived from past performances. At times we read of winning race horses whose days of high speed are gone turned out into rich pastures with kindly care provided in recognition of purses won. But man, to be sure, is not a horse.

If new feminism is to conquer all, social legislation included, we shall watch with interest the amplifying of statutory grounds for marital disunion. Let the four-flusher take what he is certain to get; he is ill conducted to arouse pity; but the has been, many may contend, will deserve the votes of the merciful.

Disfiguring Washington!

Before housing conditions in Washington reached their present intolerable situation suggestion was made in the Senate that a number of bureaus created to conduct war business—only be established in other cities. The suggestion that Mr. Hoover and his 2,000 clerks be sent to Chicago, nearer the great sources of food production, caused only a smile because it was made by a Senator who, it was known, would more likely be enchanted by a distant than a near view of the food conservation list. Also it was remarked by the cynical that no bureau chief would, except unwillingly, take himself out of the spotlight of publicity these days focussed upon Washington.

But serious consideration of proposed relief for congestion in Washington is forced by the prompt action of Mr. SCHWARTZ in taking the greater part of the ship building clerical force to Philadelphia. General GORTAL'S decision to set up headquarters for the textile division of the Quartermaster's Corps here, and the reported purpose of Mr. RYAN to remove the aviation clerical forces to this city.

Such relief should not stop there. Much of what military men call "paper work" of the Quartermaster's and other corps could be carried on as well in Baltimore, Richmond, Pittsburgh or in any of a dozen other cities as in Washington, even if Capital housing conditions were normal. Being what they are, notoriously insufficient, intolerably expensive, thousands of clerks in the offices of many corps and bureaus could do their work better in almost any other city under better living and service conditions than in Washington.

The pending housing bill provides for the expenditure of only \$10,000,000 in Washington, but it is admitted that five times that sum and two or three years will be required to construct living and working buildings adequately and decently to accommodate the present clerical forces in the Capital because Congress justly, it seems, insists that the new home and office construction shall be of a permanent character. Even so, no well composed city plan can be carried out in such rush construction, and the country will properly object to the unnecessary disfigurement of the beautiful city.

It would be much better for Congress to order a score or more of bureaus and divisions to go elsewhere; and it is highly probable that such action by Congress would meet with the prompt and cordial approval of the White House.

Is your pocketbook's back to the wall? Even if it is, let it make one more charge to-day—for Victory!

Plank down, fork over, come across, kick in, loosen up, unbelt, ante, dig!

The German Crown Prince is said to have fired several of the long range cannon shots which have been falling in Paris. If the German army were to about face the Crown Prince would find himself in the first line trench.

AN AMERICAN WOMAN.

Let Her Sister Read This and Emulate Her Example.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In these strenuous times and vast upsets in business conditions I, as many other business women, have securing much over the extreme change in all methods used to-day. The readjustment has been an awful strain on an sincere American woman to meet the demand of high prices and the unparalleled drop in trade of women's wear and still be true to the colors and help Uncle Sam.

Drumming has been my art for ten years, and with honest pride I have (until our entrance into the war) been fortunate enough to secure a very comfortable business, but the change was over night. War declared—and every one stopped. I was among the first to feel it. A high rent, heavy taxes and a war which caused me not a little worry and anxiety.

What was I to do? Act I must, and immediately. After careful consideration I placed a full line of ready to wear moderate priced gowns, sent out cards, and I am happy to state it was like magic, customers hordes ordering \$40 and up to \$100 are still to-day with me, and buying from \$25 and thereabout, showing a reduction of a good amount which should of course be spent by any honorable woman in Liberty bonds. Why, to me it is an outrage to coax and beg the women to Liberty bonds. Any serious thinking woman who thinks of those dear boys giving their lives, leaving all behind, doing the cruel and dirty work, can we even hesitate who are living in comfort, protected on every side by the Government first of all, and food and all that goes to make up life's comfort?—No—and I feel it firmly—no true American woman can stand by and see why she cannot buy at least one bond. For to-day (and I speak from experience and confidence, for I have my finger on the pulse of daily work conditions) no one need be "down and out," there is more work than people to fill the places and the state of affairs is so difficult that efficiency, much as it is needed, takes second place from necessity.

Therefore all rise early and go to work. Respect yourself and your country. With pride I read in THE SUN some weeks ago of the law forcing all women to wear the United States flag. I think five-fold would not be too old, and I wish some one would get after the women.

O my sisters, be independent, awake and find yourself, accomplish something worth while every day, earn your keep and learn to know the self-respect and confidence you have when standing on your own feet. Learn to save, buy Liberty bond at \$1 a week and arrive at being a true American citizen. Women, pledge allegiance to our flag.

(Mrs.) FLORENCE R. SENTER.
BROOKLYN, May 3.

THE SAFE INVESTMENT.

Liberty Bonds Have Behind Them the Best Security in the World.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I have listened to many orators speaking in behalf of the purchase of Liberty bonds. All without exception have based their appeals on the beautiful ideals of patriotism, altruism, generosity, etc.

But the hard-headed business man thinks of none of these things when determining how to invest his money. What he is after is a safe investment which will pay good interest on his capital. The following argument, for instance, would attract no attention.

From the beginning of the history of the country it has been an acknowledged fact that there was no safer way to invest money than the buying of gilt edged United States bonds. Now it is even a safer investment than before the great war.

But for the sake of argument you prefer to invest in a house and land. In the event of a German air raid your house would probably be demolished and your money in consequence gone. Invest it in mortgages. Under the same circumstances where would your money be? Put it in the bank, you say? Alas! banks have been known to fail.

But the United States with her great resources and her millions of brave sons to defend her honor can never fail.

NEW YORK, May 3. S. CHAPMAN.

TRADE BRIEFS.

There is a market in New Zealand for Panama hats.

Italy presents a market for machinery to make toys out of wood and tin, and for turning out books, eyes, snap fasteners and similar devices.

Oil extracting machinery is needed in Italy.

There is an opportunity to sell steel cabinet safes of American make in Canada.

A French firm wishes to buy machinery suitable for making refractory bricks.

Guangy offers an excellent market for aluminum wire. The Chinese Government also developed a field for fireless cookers, but an educational advertising campaign would be needed to introduce these devices into the country.

A lot of hardware stores and dealers in household goods can be obtained from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, 734 Custom House, this city, by referring to File No. 95646.

Requests have been received from the Chilean Association of Manufacturers of Santiago for catalogues published by furniture factories in this country. The catalogue is addressed to the "Sociedad de Fomento Fabril, Casilla 41 de Moneda 750, Santiago, Chile."

Jamaica will have a larger acreage of rice this year than ever before. Large tracts of morasses owned by the Government are being drained and will be sold at \$2.50 an acre. It is estimated that the average yield per acre of the new land will be 3,000 pounds of rice.

A Pennsylvania's Satisfactory Explanation.

From the Butler Citizen.
Waiter Redick, who was held up coming from the store to his home, had nothing taken, as he was fortunate enough not to have any money with him.

The New Schedule.

From the Atlanta Constitution.
"Time and tide for no man wait!"—Old reason and old rhyme; But with the schedule now, 'twere waste, He's changed the stage and the song—He'd had to help old time along!

BIRD KILLING CATS.

New York Has Moved to Protect the Insect Destroyers.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Governor Whitman has signed a bill which aims to put bird killing cats to death. Strange that this most humane and useful law should be passed at a time when one of the most barbarous wars known to the world is raging. But perhaps it is not strange but natural that civilization should rise to a height that melts the heart as it struggles to put down the beasts who would destroy beauty, art and culture and make the people of the world slaves of barbaric kings, and that it should feel at this time its former inhumanity in permitting cats to torture and kill useful and beautiful birds.

The people of our State should take a just pride that it is the first State to recognize that cats cause more destruction to birds than any other agency. They should feel encouraged, too, that their representatives at Albany had the good sense and independence not to be overcome by metaphysics or the false sentiment of feline worshippers who have believed that their dear little fur balls should be allowed to trespass and catch birds at will.

Those of us who have loved the melodious song of these phosphorescent dandies as it floated through the vaulted halls of night and have loved to watch their playful badinage as the waning moon gave way "and found day stands aloof, like the misty mountain tops, more ill-willing to forego these inspiring pleasures that bird life may be saved."

JAMES D. DWELL, JR.
NEW YORK, May 3.

FROM THE WORD.

Biblical Solution of the Liberty Loan Puzzle.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Encouraged by the reception my "Hebrew Trumpet Call" met with, I am bold enough to suggest to the American people a practical and very simple solution of the problem how to finance the rest of the war without forcing Uncle Sam to humble himself every six months or so going a-begging for what is due to him by every consideration of decency, patriotism and self-interest. It is nothing more and nothing less than an application of the Old Testament principle of the tithe to the huge task which will face the Treasury Department until the day when William G. McAdoo, flanked by his right and left by Generals Foch and Pershing, will be in a position, in the great hall of reception of the Allies, to declare the war over.

The man or woman who is not ready to invest 10 per cent. of his or her resources in Liberty bonds, who does not know the name of an American patriot, has no right to brag about his or her love of humanity, his or her enthusiasm for the sublime principles of democracy, and so on.

And who should start the campaign? The Hebrews, with whom the tithe practice is still a living tradition. Here is a chance for them to show whether they really love this country, whether they are ready to show their gratitude for the opportunity they found to show the stuff that is in them.

There are about 1,000,000 well to do Jewish families in the United States. Let them open their pass books before the rest of their safety cash boxes before Uncle Sam! Here, take the tenth part of it, and if you need more later on, please call again! Such an address by the children of Israel would send through the world a thrill of amazement, first of enthusiasm, after the deep meaning of the procedure will have been understood; finally a thrill of anxiety to imitate the example of lofty idealism given to the world by the Hebrews.

With this one act, after would be able to word call, if by magic, a good deal of the prejudice still prevailing against them, even in this liberty loving and liberal minded country, on account of their reputed miserliness and lack of genuine love of the fatherland.

Once more, Shema, Israel, hear! O Israel, the Lord is one! By a solemn sacred duty toward the country of our adoption; toward England, which reconquered for you the lands of your ancestors; toward France, which was first to emancipate in 1791 your forebears. The oppressed German people, in subscribing to their war loans, are given by 20 per cent. of patriotism and 80 per cent. of governmental knout. We as B'nai Cholim, let us reverse the proportion. Our epoch is the Messianic time of which our prophets spoke in flaming words. Let us forever destroy the memory of our ancestors' darkness before the golden calf by kneeling down before the Goddess of Liberty, bringing her with a cheerful heart the tenth part of our savings so that the day of Egypt may not come again upon us and our children.

NEW YORK, May 3. MONOTHEIST.

A Name for the War.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: No name that has been suggested for the war seems to me to do justice to the War in Defense of Civilization. The omission of Germany's name as aggressor will not need repeating for many centuries to come. EDWARD N. TRAIL, PRINCETON, N. J., May 3.

Editorial Troubles in Colorado.

From the Rocky Mountain Cycler.
We begin the day with a good Rocky Mountain cyclone with some phew difficulties in the way. The type pounder from whom we bought our outfit phur this printing office phailed to supply us with any copy of the paper, and it will be phour or phive weeks before we can get any. We have ordered the missing letters, and will have to get along without them until they come. We don't know if it is over this variety of spelling any better than our readers; but mistakes will happen in the best of regulated phamilies, and iph the phis and phas of the phed phed, we shall keep (sound the caph) the Cycler whirling arapher a phashion till the vorta arrive. It is no joke to us; it's a serious aphair.

An Arkansas Educational Note.

From the Arkansas Thomas Cat.
The patrons have complained so much about the constant change of school books that the teachers of the Little Rock school have deemed it advisable to cut down expenses by closing the school until the scholars forget all they have already learned, so he can take them through the same books again.

Yellowers.

Kicker.—The President has sixteen sheep on the White House lawn.
Bocker.—Weren't the halls of Congress close enough?

Correct Time, Please.

Father.—Isn't it time that young man was going?
Daughter.—No curiosity calls, father.

IF THE RAILROAD MANAGERS WERE SURE OF GETTING FAIR RATES.

Then the Forbearance of Lackawanna Would Be the Rule With All the Carriers.

Lackawanna, THE SUN pointed out in an editorial article on May 1, by contracting for rails in time of depression realized such a price advantage that upon delivery in time of industrial activity rails replaced sold as scrap scrap, \$52,599.52 more than the new rails cost.

Commenting upon this incident THE SUN suggested that not all railroads have been so wise and that not all have been financially in position to exercise such wisdom.

This episode illustrates a highly important aspect for us to consider in determining what sort of railway system the United States shall have upon the termination of Government control.

You could doubtless specify railway managers who in the years preceding 1907 had the resources and the credit to make additions and improvements when labor and material were plentiful and who did not maintain that policy. Undoubtedly the full benefit to the country from a policy of forbearance would require some regulatory prodding. Some railway managers, like the sun of us, are more timid than others, and their use for a discourager of hesitancy.

On the whole, however, I believe that a substantial proportion of those roads that were able before 1907 made large plans well in advance with a view to taking advantage of the most favorable circumstances in time of slack traffic, and that subsequent to 1907 reluctance to commit themselves to large outlays in years of low railway earnings tended to spread wider and wider among managers.

Hardly any manager concerned can be cited who would not be benefited if transportation facilities could be created and extended when general business is dull. Most vital of all is the interest of the wage worker. This applies in some degree to men actually engaged in labor for the railroad, but more to the general public, who are actually affected by concerns which have been starving for business, and were in the fiercest competition not only among themselves but with other concerns which in time of depression look about for pastures new.

Now the one thing which Congress never has explicitly endorsed upon the Interstate Commerce Commission or upon any other administrative agent is that provision for future traffic and in general the development of the country is to be an aim of rate regulation. It has been common to hear it said that Congress never would say "shall" to the commission. This is one of the superstitions which have been shattered by the war.

Congress has said "shall" to the commission. The railway control act provides that "when the President shall find and certify to the Interstate Commerce